Homeland Security
Science and Technology

Highlight

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
SAVER
System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) established the System Assessment and Validation for Emergency Responders (SAVER) Program to assist emergency responders making procurement decisions.

Located within the Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) of DHS, the SAVER Program conducts objective assessments and validations on commercial equipment and systems, and provides those results along with other relevant equipment information to the emergency response community in an operationally useful form. SAVER provides information on equipment that falls within the categories listed in the DHS Authorized Equipment List (AEL). The SAVER Program mission includes:

- Conducting impartial, practitioner-relevant, operationally oriented assessments and validations of emergency responder equipment;
- Providing information that enables decision makers and responders to better select, procure, use, and maintain emergency responder equipment.

Information provided by the SAVER Program will be shared nationally with the responder community, providing a life- and cost-saving asset to DHS, as well as to federal, state, and local responders.

The SAVER Program is supported by a network of technical agents who perform assessment and validation activities. Further, SAVER focuses primarily on two main questions for the emergency responder community: "What equipment is available?" and "How does it perform?"

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Ion Mobility Spectrometers

Increased interest in detection of chemical, explosive, and narcotic compounds has led to the development of instruments and sensors that can be effective in a variety of operating environments. The ion mobility spectrometer (IMS) can detect a multitude of compounds and is currently is the most frequently-used technology for detecting explosives, illicit drugs, and chemical warfare agents. As a SAVER Technical Agent, the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) conducted an assessment of four IMS chemical detectors.

In preparation for the assessment, CDP conducted a focus group to determine criteria by which to measure IMS chemical detectors' effectiveness, the scenario used in testing, expected operational outcomes, and criteria for the assessment. Results of the focus group may found in the *Ion Mobility Spectrometry Chemical Detectors Focus Group Report*. CDP also performed a market survey of IMS chemical detectors prior to the assessment, and published the *Ion Mobility Spectrometry Chemical Detectors Market Survey Report*.

Findings of the IMS comparative assessment, which was performed to evaluate the efficacy of IMS chemical detectors, are found in the *Ion Mobility Spectrometry Chemical Detectors Assessment Report*. All reports in the series are available on the SAVER Web site (https://www.rkb.us/SAVER). Additional reports on other technologies can also be found on the Web site.

Ion Mobility Spectrometry